

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

URBAN DISTRICT OF EAST DEREHAM

Norfolk

for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

C.S. Thomson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.F.H.

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor:

T.Spurr, M.R.San I., A.M.I.S.E., C.I.S.B.,

... ..

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1948.

Detailed statistics are given on succeeding pages and give rise to the following general comments.

VITAL STATISTICS

The estimated population of East Dereham Urban District has increased by nearly 400 compared with 1947.

There were 97 live births, including 4 illegitimate, registered during 1948. No still births were registered. Deaths from all causes totalled 84. The birth rate (15.5) has fallen by 7 per 1,000 population and is below the rate for England and Wales (17.9). There was a slight decrease in the death rate (13.46) which is, however, above the national average for the year (10.8). The infant mortality rate (61.85) is twice the rate for 1947 (30) and is well above the rate for England and Wales (34).

It will be seen from these figures that fewer babies have been born and fewer survived than last year. Of the 6 infant deaths, 4 were attributable to prematurity and 2 to infection.

The decrease in the total number of deaths was almost negligible 2 less than in 1947. There was a slight decrease in deaths from cancer. Fewer female deaths were recorded, but there was an increase in the number of male deaths.

Infectious disease, other than two from pneumonia, did not account for any deaths. This can be regarded as highly satisfactory, bearing in mind the large increase in the number of notified cases of infectious disease during the year.

There were two deaths from tuberculosis, both over 35 years of age. The mortality rate (.32) was slightly lower than that for 1947 (.34 per 1,000 population).

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

General

242 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year as compared with 33 in the preceding year. This increase was largely attributable to an epidemic of measles (183 cases). (Scarlet Fever was, however, less prevalent than in 1947) Whooping Cough was eight times as prevalent.

Scarlet Fever

The scarlet fever rate (0.15) was below the average for England and Wales (1.73), only one case being notified.

Measles

The incidence of this disease was heavy (183 cases), and was confined to children of pre-school age (82 cases) and to schoolchildren (98 cases). Two schools in Dereham were chiefly affected, the National V.P. Junior and Toftwood. The incidence rate (29.33) was well above that for England and Wales (9.43).

Whooping Cough

There were 39 cases of Whooping Cough, giving a notification rate of 6.25 as compared with the National rate of 3.42. Half the number of cases were children under school age, and the other half related to children in the 5-9 age group.

Diphtheria

Two cases were notified during 1948. Both were over 20 years of age.

Poliomyelitis

I am pleased to report that following the epidemic of 1947, no new cases were notified during the year under review. Two cases of residual paralysis from the 1947 outbreak are still receiving treatment.

Tuberculosis

Only 4 new cases of tuberculosis were notified in 1948, 2 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory, as compared with 9 in 1947. There were 2 deaths, both respiratory, compared with 1 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory in 1947.

Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme

With effect from 5th July, 1948, the Norfolk County Council assumed responsibility for administering the immunisation scheme. Up to that date the District Council performed that duty and the effectiveness of the scheme is borne out by the fact that no cases of diphtheria relating to children under and of school age were notified during 1948.

The work carried out from 1st January to 30th June, 1948, was as follows:-

<u>Complete Primary Immunisations</u>			<u>Re-inforcing Doses</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
<u>Under 5</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>All ages</u>	<u>Treated</u>
53	6	59	6	65

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	5,313
Population (Census 1931)	5,643
Population (estimated resident 1948)	6,240
Number of inhabited houses	1,941
Rateable Value	£27, 738
Estimated Net Produce of a Penny Rate	£105. 9. 0.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

which relate to the Births and Deaths in the District.

<u>Total Males Females</u>						
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>				<u>Dereham Urban</u>	<u>England</u>	
Legitimate	93	40	53)	Birth rate per	<u>District</u>	<u>& Wales</u>
Illegitimate	4	2	2)	1,000 of estimated	1948	1948
Total	97	42	55)	resident	15.5	17.9
				population		
Still Birth rate per 1,000						
total (Live and Still) Births ...				...	22.2	-
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	-	-	-)	Rate per 1,000		
Illegitimate	-	-	-)	of estimated		
Total	-	-	-)	resident		
				population	-	0.42

DEATHS	Total	Males	Females	Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	Dereham Urban District		England & Wales
					1948	1947	1948
Total	84	40	44		13.46	14.7	10.8

Deaths from puerperal causes Nil.

INFANT DEATHS

				Totals	Males	Females
Legitimate ...	...	...		6	6	-
Illegitimate..	...	...		-	-	-
Totals	...	...	...	6	6	-

	Dereham Urban District		England & Wales
	1948	1947	1948
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000live births ...	61.85	30.0	34.0

Ages at Death (Infants under 1 year)

Ages			Males	Females	Total
1st day ...	...	...	2	-	2
1 - 7 days	...	...	1	-	1
1 - 4 weeks	...	...	2	-	2
1 - 3 months	...	...	1	-	1
3 - 6 months	...	...	-	-	-
6 - 9 months	...	...	-	-	-
9 - 12 months	...	...	-	-	-
			6	-	6

Causes of Death (Infants under 1 year)

		Males	Females	Total
Total	-	4		
Inevitable				
Prematurity ...		4	-	4
Total	-	2		
Preventable				
Infectious ...		2	-	2

The causes of death are given in the following table
supplied by the Registrar-General:-

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
<u>All Causes</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>84</u>
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	2
9. Influenza	1	-	1
15. Cancer of breast	-	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	7	5	12
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	2	9	11
19. Heart Diseases	9	17	26
20. Other Diseases of circulatory system	-	2	2
21. Bronchitis	-	2	2
22. Pneumonia	1	1	2
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	-	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	-	3
28. Nephritis	2	1	3
31. Premature Birth	4	-	4
33. Suicide	-	1	1
35. Other violent causes	2	3	5
36. All other causes	7	1	8

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the following table:-

Disease	Total Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	Notification Rate per 1000 Population	
				Dereham 1948	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	0.15	1.73
Whooping Cough	39	-	-	6.25	3.42
Measles	183	3	-	29.33	9.43
Pneumonia	11	1	2	1.76	0.73
Diphtheria	2	2	-	0.32	0.08
Infectious Hepatitis	1	-	-		
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	-		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-		
	<u>242</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>		

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease by age groups:-

Disease	Ages														Total
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	55-	65-		
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Whooping Cough	1	4	3	6	5	18	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	39	
Measles	11	11	15	23	22	89	9	1	2	-	-	-	-	183	
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	1	5	-	1	11	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	
Infectious Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Totals	14	15	18	29	28	110	9	2	7	2	7	-	1	242	

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis, and deaths are given in the following table:-

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-

The number of cases on the district register at the end of 1948 is given in the following table:-

Type of Case	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory	12	9	21
Non-Respiratory	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>41</u>
	<u>33</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>62</u>

NATIONAL HEALTH ACT, 1946.

For the purpose of carrying out their new duties under the National Health Services Act, the Norfolk County Council decentralised many of its public health functions to nine Area Offices.. Area No.3 comprises Dereham Urban District and Mitford and Launditch Rural District, and a temporary office was opened at the Isolation Hospital, Dereham on 5th July, 1948. This office is supervised by an Assistant County Medical Officer, who is also the Medical Officer of Health to the two Districts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER

The average daily consumption was 154,880 gallons as compared with 148,886 gallons in the previous year, the average daily pumping hours being 15.4 compared with 13.9 in 1947.

Pumping was at the rate of 10,414 gallons per hour.

Bacteriological and chemical sampling of the water supply at the water works gave satisfactory results although the supply was found to be slightly ferruginous.

A water main was installed at Sandy Lane East during the year.

Number of houses supplied from town water supply - 1,105.

(a) Direct to houses 817

(b) By means of stand-pipes 288

3,315 of the population are supplied directly leaving 2,406 without a town water supply.

A total of 57,413,250 gallons was pumped during the year, representing an increase on the previous year.

If the installation of the water filtration and softening plant which was envisaged in 1946 could be proceeded with the benefits it would confer on housewives in economy of soap and labour saving would need no emphasis.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Sewage Works have functioned very satisfactorily.

The average samples of effluent taken have been satisfactory.

During the year work was commenced on the Scarning Water and Sewerage Scheme.

Construction of a new sewerage scheme direct from the Sewage Works to the Sandy Lane Estate, providing for 124 houses was commenced.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Owing to the restriction of Civil Building Licences and shortage of materials, no conversions took place during the year.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council operates 1 Karrier Bantam Collector for the collection of refuse and a cart for the collection of night soil. Such collections are made weekly.

1,740 refuse bins are emptied weekly, the distance covered by the collecting vehicles being 43 miles.

The controlled Tipping Site was in use throughout the year.

When and where necessary notices were served for the provision of new dustbins.

5. SUMMARY OF DUTIES CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

Houses and Premises inspected	104
Nuisances abated	23
Preliminary Notices served	8
Factories, Dairies, Shops etc., inspected	27 premises
Rat disinfection	4 premises
Number of Dustbin notices	43
Number of Dustbins renewed	90

6. SALVAGE SCHEME

No information available.

HOUSING

Number of houses erected in District during the year:

(a) By the Local Authority	35
Yaxham Road Estate	6
Westfield Road	8
Sandy Lane Estate	19
Northgate Estate	2
(b) By other bodies or persons	8
(c) Houses under erection at the end of the year	16

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

Milk Sampling is now carried out by the Norfolk County Council.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Number of registered purveyors of milk ...	11
Number of registered cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk	21

Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 & 1938

Number of licensed producers of Accredited Milk	6
Number of licensed purveyors of Accredited Milk	5

(b) Meat and Other Foods

Slaughtering is carried out at a central slaughter house under Government control and regular inspections are carried out by the Council's Meat Inspector.

A total of 3,518 carcasses was examined by the Meat Inspector during 1948, made up as follows:-

Cattle	...	1,047
Calves	...	761
Pigs	...	143
Sheep	...	<u>1,567</u>
Total		<u>3,518</u>

The following was condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Beef	...	7 tons 4cwts. 53 lbs.
Pork	...	8 cwts. 32 lbs.
Mutton	...	3cwts. 90 lbs.

Parts of Carcasses ... 666 parts.

Miscellaneous Foods

10 pkts. Cereals	32lbs cheese
54 tins of Meat	10lbs Sugar
64 tins & 2 boxes of fish	16 lbs Boiled Sweets
30 lbs bacon	265 tins of other foods.

(c) Ice Cream

No inspections were carried out during the year.

CONCLUSION

As this is my third and last Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health I should like to express my thanks to my Predecessor and Successor and to colleagues on the staff of the County Council and Urban District Council for their ready help at all times. In the compilation of these Reports I am especially indebted to Mr. Fitch, Chief Clerk, Local Health Office Area 3.

It is a pleasure to record also the courtesy and consideration which you, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Urban District Council, have accorded me throughout my tenure of office.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES S. THOMSON.

Medical Officer of Health

